

SECRET/ [REDACTED]

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of Beria has been the occasion for exuberant joy and great hopes that it may lead to a revolution in the interior of the USSR. These sentiments were shared by all the Polish people except those who have become fanatical members of the Communist Party.

The Poles are generally of the opinion that the USSR will act in this respect in such a manner as it sees fit without bothering to consider Polish interests. There is no faith in sincerity on the part of the Soviets in the question of a united Germany. On the contrary, the Poles are convinced that these maneuvers are only political tactical devices and that in reality the USSR would like to continue exerting its power and influence over Eastern Germany as long as possible.

I can only say that the pressure exerted over the remnants of private enterprise, ie, the small stores and shops owned by merchants and artisans where the latter follow their trade without the benefit of paid help, has been relaxed during the summer of 1953.

It would be a mistake, however, if one would believe the Communists were about to shelve their economic politics. It is just the opposite that will happen. It is generally believed that this temporary leniency will soon be followed by new restrictions and that the artisan trade will be compelled to join a cooperative and then the last free merchants will be eliminated. I may add that at least 50% of the artisan trade is already organized in cooperatives. These artisans consist of shoemakers, carpenters, interior decorators, locksmiths, plumbers, barbers, tailors, house-painters etc. I wish to state again that regarding this matter as well as all others, I express myself only with reference to subjects known to me and only to the extent they are known to me.

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LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES

102.4	55M
107.4	55M
812.4	55M
114.577	55M
135.5	N(FM)
112.2	55M
890.5	55M(N)(JM)

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